

Message Text

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ACTION HA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1845
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8209

LIMDIS

DEPT FOR EA AND HA ONLY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: OPIATE TESTING

REF BANGKOK 6732

1. AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE EMBASSY REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER, THE REGIONAL DEA OFFICE, AND THE ICEM DOCTOR, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A POLICY FOR PROCESSING REFUGEES SUSPECTED OF NARCOTICS ADDICTION, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON OPIUM. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE MAY BE BATTLING IN THE DARK. EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS TOPIC REVEAL THAT JUDGMENTS ON OPIUM ADDICTION MAY BE ARBITRARY. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, WHATEVER THEIR PREVIOUS USAGE MAY HAVE BEEN, HMONG CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES NOT ONLY ARE NOT SMOKING OPIUM, BUT ARE SURVIVING WELL WITHOUT IT.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A DISCREET READING ON THE FRENCH EXPERIENCE WITH HMONG. DO ANY HMONG WHO ARRIVE IN THE FRENCH TRANSIT CENTERS SUFFER WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS? WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THE RUMORED FRENCH DETOXIFICATION PROCESS? DO THE FRENCH HAVE ANY FOLLOWUP DATA ON THE MEDICAL STATUS OF THE HMONG A FEW MONTHS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL?

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3. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY DEPARTMENT OPINION ON HOW WE SHOULD HANDLE THIS PROBLEM, AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER THE FOLLOWING OPERATING POLICY HAS VALIDITY.

4. THE TEN POINT POLICY FOLLOWS:

A. ANY REFUGEE WHO HAS A POSITIVE NONOGRAM READING AT ANY LEVEL WILL BE TESTED AT LEAST TWICE MORE.

B. JVR WILL SEND IN BIO INFORMATION TO ACVA ON THOSE WHOSE INITIAL SCORE IS UNDER 20.

C. IF ALL THREE SCORES ARE UNDER 20, THERE IS NO PRESUMPTION OF ADDICTION AND NO NEED FOR AN INTERVIEW.

D. ANY REFUGEE WHO HAS A SCORE OF 20 OR OVER ON ANY ONE OF THE TESTS IS SUSPECTED OF ADDICTION AND MUST BE INTERVIEWED.

E. REFUGEES WITH NANOGRAM SCORES OF 20 OR ABOVE WILL REMAIN IN THE CAMPS UNTIL THE ADDICTION QUESTION IS RESOLVED.

F. A REFUGEE OFFICER WILL INTERVIEW THOSE SUSPECTED OF ADDICTION.

G. AT THE REFUGEE OFFICER'S DISCRETION, AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE MEDICAL PERSONNEL, THOSE WITH THREE POSITIVE SCORES IN A ROW, IF ONE OF THE SCORES IS OVER 20 BUT NONE IS AS HIGH AS 40, MAY EITHER BE PRESUMED NON-ADDICTED, PLACED UNDER OBSERVATION, OR BE TOLD THAT THEY WILL BE RETESTED AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE IN THE FUTURE.

H. FURTHER TESTING MUST TAKE PLACE AT LEAST ONE WEEK AFTER
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THE THIRD TEST, BUT BE RANDOM AND UNANNOUNCED.

I. ANY REFUGEE WITH A SINGLE SCORE OF 40 OR MORE WILL BE PARTICULARLY SUSPECTED OF ADDICTION, AND THE REFUGEE OFFICER AND APPROPRIATE MEDICAL PERSONNEL WILL DETERMINE THE NECESSITY FOR FURTHER OBSERVATION OR TESTING BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO RETAIN OR REVOKE THE ALIEN NUMBER.

J. THOSE WITH SCORES OF 200 OR MORE ON THREE SUCCESSIVE TESTS WILL BE PRESUMED ADDICTED AND THEIR ALIEN NUMBERS REVOKED UNTIL FURTHER OBSERVATION, MORE STUDY, PERIODIC RANDOM TESTING, AND MORE EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROBLEM CONVINCES US THAT THEY SHOULD BE REINSTATED UNDER FUTURE PROGRAMS.
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